

Lineage and Honors History
Of the
379 Air Expeditionary Wing (ACC)

Lineage. Established as 379 Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 28 Oct 1942. Activated on 3 Nov 1942. Redesignated 379 Bombardment Group, Heavy on 11 Aug 1944. Inactivated on 25 Jul 1945. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 379 Bombardment Wing, Medium, which was established on 23 Mar 1953. Activated on 1 Nov 1955. Redesignated: 379 Bombardment Wing, Heavy on 9 Jan 1961; 379 Wing on 1 Sep 1991; 379 Bomb Wing on 1 Jun 1992. Inactivated on 30 Jun 1993. Redesignated 379 Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, on 4 Dec 2001.

Assignments. Second Air Force, 3 Nov 1942; 15 Bombardment (later, 15 Bombardment Training) Wing, 26 Nov 1942; Eighth Air Force, c. 26 Apr 1943; VIII Bomber Command, 20 May 1943; 103 Provisional Heavy Bombardment Combat Wing, 22 May 1943; 41 Combat Bombardment Wing, 16 Sep 1943; North African Division, Air Transport Command, 16 Jun-25 Jul 1945. Second Air Force, 1 Nov 1955 (attached to 813 Air Division, 1 Nov 1955-31 May 1956); 823 Air Division, 1 Jun 1956 (attached to 5 Air Division, 6 Mar-12 May 1957); 40 Air Division, 9 Jan 1961; Eighth Air Force, 8 Jun 1988; Ninth Air Force, 1 Jun 1992-30 Jun 1993. Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 4 Dec 2001.

Components. *Group.* **379** Operations: 1 Sep 1991-31 Dec 1992. *Squadrons.* **19** Air Refueling: attached 1 Feb-30 Jun 1956. **524** Bombardment (later, 524 Bomb): 3 Nov 1942-25 Jul 1945; 1 Nov 1955-1 Sep 1991. **525:** 3 Nov 1942-25 Jul 1945; 1 Nov 1955-9 Jan 1961. **526:** 3 Nov 1942-25 Jul 1945; 1 Nov 1955-9 Jan 1961. **527:** 3 Nov 1942-25 Jul 1945; 1 Nov 1958-9 Jan 1961. **920** Air Refueling: 9 Jan 1961-1 Sep 1991.

Stations. Geiger Field, UT, 3 Nov 1942; Gowan Field, ID, 26 Nov 1942; Wendover Field, UT, 2 Dec 1942; Sioux City AAB, IA, 3 Feb-Apr 1943; Bovington, England, 26 Apr 1943 (air echelon); Kimbolton, England, 20 May 1943 (ground echelon), 21 May 1943 (air echelon); Casablanca, French Morocco, 17 Jun-25 Jul 1945. Homestead AFB, FL, 1 Nov 1955; Wurtsmith AFB, MI, 9 Jan 1961-30 Jun 1993.

Commanders. None (not manned), 3-25 Nov 1942; Col Maurice A. Preston, 26 Nov 1942; Lt Col James A. DuBose Jr., 21 Jun 1944 (temporary); Col Maurice A. Preston, 15 Jul 1944; Col Lewis E. Lyle, 11 Oct 1944; Lt Col Lloyd C. Mason, 6 May 1945; Lt Col Horace E. Frink, 23 May 1945-unkn. Maj James C. Harrington, 1 Nov 1955; Lt Col William L. Hosler Jr., 2 Nov 1955; Col Travis M. Hetherington, 10 Nov 1955; Lt Col William L. Hossler Jr., 12 Nov 1955 (temporary); Lt Col Ralph D. Gahl, 18 Nov 1955 (temporary); Lt Col William L. Hosler Jr., 26 Nov 1955 (temporary); Col Travis M. Hetherington, 2 Dec 1955; Col William H. Cleveland, 1 Jun 1957; Col John B. McPherson, 3 Mar 1958; Col Joseph A. Kelly, 18 Sep 1959; Col Roland W. Bergamy, 15 Oct 1959; Col Richard R. Stewart, 1 Aug 1960; Col John H. Kunkel Jr., 9 Jan 1961; Col Gerard G. Wolke, 13 Jun 1962; Col Paul K. Carlton, 25 Jun 1962; Col Boyd B. White, 18 Nov 1963; Col Andrew J. Bratton Jr., 9 Jan 1964; Col Boyd B. White, 19 May 1965; Col William R. Calhoun Jr., 15 Jun 1965; Col Pat H. Earhart, 15 Jun 1966; Col Lawrence W. Steinkraus, 9 Aug 1968; Col Colin C. Hamilton Jr., 21 Apr 1969; Col John W. Burkhart, 23 Feb 1970; Col Thomas M. Ryan Jr., 14 Jul 1972; Col Perrin W. Gower Jr., 25 Oct 1972; Col Kelly H. Burke, 3 Jan 1973; Col Donald N. Webster, 13 Jun 1974; Col Edwin L. Smith, 15 Apr 1975; Col Henry W. Boardman, 8 Jul 1975; Col John J. Doran Jr., 11 Jul 1977; Col Jesse S. Hocker, 26 Feb 1979; Col Billy S. Lyons, 4 Feb

1981; Col Billy F. Price, 12 Jan 1982; Col Robert M. Alexander, 13 Jul 1983; Col Eugene E. Habiger, 28 Mar 1985; Col Kenneth L. Hagemann, 3 Jan 1986; Col William B. Davitte, 17 Nov 1986; Col Albert H. Sauter II, 28 Mar 1988; Col Kenneth S. Boykin, 17 Jul 1989; Col Dennis C. Scruggs III, c. 29 Dec 1990; Col Kenneth S. Boykin, c. 12 Mar 1991; Col William H. Campbell Jr., 1 Aug 1991-30 Jun 1993.

Aircraft. B-17, 1942-1945. KC-97, 1956; B-47, 1956-1960; B-52, 1961-1992; KC-135, 1961-1992.

Operations. Trained in B-17 bombardment operations, Dec 1942-Apr 1943. Moved to England, with the air echelon flying their B-17s via the North Atlantic route in Apr 1943 and the ground echelon crossing by ship in May. Began operations with Eighth Air Force on 29 May, engaging primarily in bombardment of strategic targets such as industries, oil refineries, storage plants, submarine pens, airfields, and communications centers in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, and Poland. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for operations over Europe, May 1943-Jul 1944. Received a second DUC for flying without fighter protection into central Germany to attack vital aircraft factories on 11 Jan 1944. On several occasions attacked interdictory targets and operated in support of ground forces. Bombed V-weapon sites, airfields, radar stations, and other installations before the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944; bombed defended positions just ahead of the Allied landings on 6 Jun; and struck airfields, rail choke points, and gun emplacements during the campaign that followed. Bombed enemy positions to assist ground troops at St Lo during the breakthrough, 24-25 Jul 1944. Attacked German communications and fortifications during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, and bridges and viaducts in France and Germany to aid the Allied assault across the

Rhine, Feb-Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission on 25 Apr 1945. Combat crews, ordnance, armament, and radar personnel transferred from the group in May 1945. The remainder of the group moved to French Morocco in Jun, assigned to Air Transport Command and soon inactivated. The 379th Bombardment Wing activated in Nov 1955 and spent the next few months becoming organized and manned. Received tactical aircraft in Apr 1956 and commenced training for air refueling and strategic bombardment operations. Became combat ready in Nov 1956. Deployed At Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, for training, Mar-May 1957. Moved to Wurtsmith AFB without equipment in Jan 1961. Reequipped with KC-135 and B-52 aircraft; conducted worldwide air refueling operations beginning Jan 1961 and strategic bombardment training beginning May 1961. Supported combat operations in Southeast Asia with KC-135 aircraft and crews, 1965-1975, and B-52 aircrews, 1970-1975. Wing apparently provided some air refueling for the U.S. operations in Grenada, Oct-Nov 1983. Won the Strategic Air Command bombing and navigation competition and the Fairchild Trophy in 1987. Deployed air refueling aircraft and crews to provide inflight refueling supporting the buildup for the war against Iraq, beginning in Aug 1990, as well as air refueling support during the conflict. Members of the 379th deployed as the lead wing forming the 1708 Provisional Bomb Wing in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. On 18 Jan, bombers flew from Wurtsmith to attack targets of the Iraqi Republican Guard, then recovered at Jeddah. Deployed bombers and aircrews to additional locations to participate in the conflict, Jan-Mar 1991. Began preparing for closure of Wurtsmith AFB beginning the second half of 1991. In a general reorganization, the 920th Air Refueling Squadron transferred to

another Command on 1 Jun 1992. The final B-52 transferred on 15 Dec 1992 and the wing inactivated on 30 Jun 1993.

Service Streamers. None.

Campaign Streamers. *World War II:* Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME. *Southwest Asia:* Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. Grenada 1983.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations: Continental Europe, 29 May 1943-31 Jul 1944; Germany, 11 Jan 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jul 1963-30 Jun 1964; 1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971; 1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1979; 1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991.

Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through 4 Dec 2001

Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through Jun 1993

Supersedes statement prepared on 18 Jul 1985.

Emblem. Approved on 23 Aug 1956.

Prepared by Judy G. Endicott